



February 2, 2005

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Mr. John G. Heyer, Counsel
Committee for Purchase from People
Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled
1421 Jefferson Davis Highway
Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800
Arlington, VA 22202-3259

Dear Mr. Heyer:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding possible regulations that would expand the role and authority of the Committee for the Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled Purchase beyond their legislated mandate.

I believe the Committee's information about agencies in our field is lacking. Relevant facts includes the following:

- The recent scandals reported at Chimes and perhaps a few other charities are in the extreme minority. The IRS is, and should, aggressively investigate such practices. The Committee is at risk of duplicating the work of the IRS and other watchdog groups who are far more experienced in these matters.
- Information on agency compensation and governance is already available to the public through the mandated IRS Form 990 reports. These can also be found on the Internet.
- Any non-profit that is accredited, is United Way funded, that must meet state and local standards for registration as a fundraising entity, and that competes successfully for major corporate and foundation support is already heavily scrutinized.

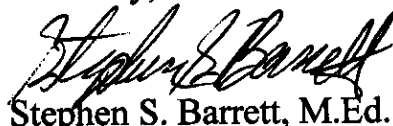


My recommendations as President of Pittsburgh Vision Services include the following:

1. The Committee should defer to the work of the IRS and other watchdog organizations in the area of monitoring nonprofit agencies in our field, thus avoiding duplication of efforts.
2. The Committee and/or NIB can engage the services of the National Association for Employment of People who are Blind (NAEPB) and others in helping to establish a voluntary set of governance standards.
3. NIB may assist the Committee in conducting a voluntary survey of CEO qualifications, compensation and benefits.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,



Stephen S. Barrett, M.Ed.
President

Copy to:

Ms. Katherine Astrich
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Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
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